In the claims:

Amend independent claims 11 and 15 respectively.

Cancel dependent 12, without prejudice.

Retain dependent claims 13 and 14 respectively as previously presented.

In addition, in view of the explicit holdings rendered by the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Festo* case recently decided on May 28, 2002 [Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kabushiki Co. Ltd. *et al.*, 62 U.S.P.Q.2d 1705 (2002)] concerning the applicability of the legal doctrine of equivalents to amended claim language, applicants now present a formal attestation and affirmation of their legal position and substantive rights: Applicants do not now surrender for any reason, nor have previously surrendered at any time nor for any reason during the prosecution of the instant application, any inventive subject matter which is or could be expected to be a particular equivalent of the invention defined by the language of the amended claims then pending by a person ordinarily skilled in this art; and also state that no presumption of estoppel, either in law or equity, exists or pertains now or at any time previously as a potential bar to the application of the doctrine of equivalence for any and all possible embodiments which may be found to be encompassed now or in the future by the language of the amended claims proffered now or at any time previously for examination to the U.S. Patent

Office. Accordingly, applicants herein affirmatively rebut and explicitly dispute any presumption that the doctrine of equivalence for the language of the amended claims has been surrendered or is not in full force for any reason and at any time during the prosecution for any and all amended claims prosecuted for the instant application.

Also, in accordance with the revised amendment practice (which became compulsory on July 30th, 2003), applicants now present a listing of all the claims in ascending numerical order which were ever submitted for review; and include an identification of those cancelled or withdrawn claims which were previously submitted as well as the full text of the claims currently pending in the instant application. The listing of all claims ever presented and the full text of the presently pending claims begins on the immediately following page.

Claims 1-10 (canceled):

Claim 11 (currently amended): A PR-39 derived oligopeptide family whose members individually are operative and functional to cause a selective inhibition of proteasome-mediated degradation in-situ after introduction intracellularly to a viable cell, each member of said PR-39 derived oligopeptide family being

a pharmacologically active oligopeptide which is less than 14 ~~26~~ amino acid residues in length;

a pharmacologically active oligopeptide whose N-terminal amino acid residue sequence begins with Arg-Arg-Arg;

a pharmacologically active oligopeptide which is an analog of the amino acid sequence of native PR-39 peptide;

a pharmacologically active oligopeptide operative selectively to ~~selectively~~ alter the proteolytic degradation activity of proteasomes in-situ;

a pharmacologically active oligopeptide operative selectively to interact in-situ with at least the α7 subunit of such proteasomes as are present within the cytoplasm of the cell; and

a pharmacologically active oligopeptide operative selectively to alter the proteolytic degradation activity of said proteasomes having an interacting α7 subunit such that the proteolytic degradation mediated by said

proteasomes against at least one peptide selected from the group consisting of NFκB inhibitor IκBα and hypoxia-inducing factor (HIF)-1α becomes selectively inhibited without substantially altering the proteolytic degradation of other peptides mediated by said proteasomes.

~~Claim 12 (previously presented): The PR-39 derived oligopeptide family as recited in claim 11 or 15 whose membership includes a peptide comprised of 15 amino acid residues whose sequence is Arg-Arg-Arg-Pro-Arg-Pro-Pro-Tyr-Leu-Pro-Arg-Pro-Arg-Pro-Pro (SEQ ID NO: 3).~~

Claim 13 (previously presented): The PR-39 derived oligopeptide family as recited in claim 11 or 15 whose membership includes a peptide comprised of 11 amino acid residues whose sequence is Arg-Arg-Arg-Pro-Arg-Pro-Pro-Tyr-Leu-Pro-Arg (SEQ ID NO: 4).

Claim 14 (previously presented): The PR-39 derived oligopeptide family as recited in claim 11 or 15 whose membership includes a peptide comprised of 8 amino acid residues whose sequence is Arg-Arg-Arg-Pro-Arg-Pro-Pro-Tyr (SEQ ID NO: 5).

Claim 15 (currently amended): A PR-39 derived oligopeptide family whose members are operative and functional to cause a selective inhibition of protease-mediated degradation in-situ after introduction intracellularly to a viable cell, each member of said PR-39 oligopeptide family being:

a pharmacologically active oligopeptide which is less than 12 ~~20~~ amino acid residues in length;

a pharmacologically active oligopeptide whose N-terminal amino acid residue sequence begins with Arg-Arg-Arg;

a pharmacologically active oligopeptide which is an analog of the amino acid sequence of native PR-39 peptide;

a pharmacologically active oligopeptide operative selectively to ~~selectively~~ alter the proteolytic degradation activity of proteasomes in-situ;

a pharmacologically active oligopeptide operative selectively to interact in-situ with at least the α7 subunit of such proteasomes as are present within the cytoplasm of the cell; and

a pharmacologically active oligopeptide operative selectively to alter the proteolytic degradation activity of said proteasomes having an interacting α7 subunit such that the proteolytic degradation mediated by said proteasomes against at least one peptide selected from the group consisting of NFκB inhibitor IκBα and hypoxia-inducing factor (HIF)-1α becomes

selectively inhibited without substantially altering the proteolytic degradation of other peptides mediated by said proteasomes.